through pr-omotion measures such as participation in fairs, exhibitions and market surveys.

Re-Imbursement of Surgery Expenses to Defence Pensioners

6881. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to re-imburse or to provide financial assistance to defence pensioners to meet the high cost surgery expenses by them and their spouses; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b). There is no scheme in Ministry of Defence for financial assistance to meet the high cost of surgery expenses of Defence pensioners of their spouses. However, Army Group Insurance Fund (AGIF), a Society registered under the Society Registration Act, has introduced a contributory, self-sustaining Medical Benefit Scheme to provide financial assistance upto an amount of Rs. 1 lakh for Members and their sponses to meet the cost of surgery/ treatment of certain cases of heart ailment, cancer and renal transplant. Only those personnel who have retired with service pension and have not completed a period of 15 years after retirement or 70 years of age, whichever is earlier, are eligible to opt for this scheme. The treatment has to be taken in the approved hospitals. A scheme on similar lines is in operation on the Air Force side also.

Non-Observance of Customs Rules

6882. DR. R. MALLU:
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases of deliberate non-observance of customs rules and regulations during each of the last three years on each port and airport in the country alongwith the value of goods confiscated;

(b) the amount involved therein, year-wise;

(c) the number of persons apprehended in this regard, year-wise; and

(d) the amount of penalty recovered from these persons, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Deemed Exporter Companies

6883. SHRI CHHOTEY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that many deemed exporter companies are facing difficulties due to lack of funds;

(b) whether the Reserve Bank of India has instructed the Nationalised Banks to be lenient with such deemed exporter-companies while providing funds;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Such issues are normally referred by the exporters to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and RBI have indicated that no complaints to this effect have been received by them.